COTTON CHATS

FROM

DRAPER COMPANY

SHIPMAN'S
COMMON-SENSE BINDER

PATENTED

JANUARY 19, 1892. APRIL 19, 1904

To open binder, remove the slides from fasteners raise the fasteners to an erect position and then file papers. For punching: lay the papers on covers and mark sheets to correspond with fasteners.

If DUPLICATE is wanted ORDER 25981

ASA L. SHIPMAN'S SONS
MANUFACTURERS,
NEW YORK.

COTTON CHATS

By the Secretary of the

DRAPER COMPANY,

HOPEDALE, MASS.

No. 40. JUNE, 1905.

TEXTILE TRADE CONDITIONS.

Cotton manufacturing has now reached a stage where more confidence is manifested as to the future, certain lines of goods already selling on a very fair basis of profit. There is little tendency toward erecting new mills, however, and such enlargement will probably be postponed until next spring. Meanwhile, the present mills are considering betterment of equipment, and our orders show a marked move toward replacement of old looms by the Northrop construction.

The present conditions of cotton mill labor in the South present features of exceeding interest. It is asserted that there are 300,000 spindles stopped in South Carolina alone, for want of help. This scarcity seems to affect the carding and spinning departments, and the common loom weave rooms. There are plenty of Northrop loom weavers, and operatives ready to learn to run Northrop looms, for the wages earned on Northrop looms have induced spinners and carders to leave their former employment. The whole difficulty started from the assumption that Northrop looms would only double the productive power of the operative. When the price per cut for weaving on Northrop looms was reduced to one-half the former standard, it was assumed that the weaver would earn a little more than before, owing to the larger percentage of product per loom, but weavers soon stretched out to triple the former number of looms in many cases, and the price per cut was not always proportionately lessened. It is said by some southern manufacturers that there is no real scarcity of help, but that help will not work regularly since

the higher wages have been paid, as they need some spare time in which to spend their surplus. The pay per side for spinners in some sections in the South is higher than in the North.

Wage questions always solve themselves in time by application of the ever present influence of supply and demand. We are not inclined to interfere, or even advise, on a matter that directly affects the mill and the operative. We can point out, however, that the present conditions prove that our loom has greater possibilities than were at first outlined, and the end is not yet reached.

A change from present common looms to Northrop can promptly remedy the present difficulty. There are still thousands of common looms running in southern mills. The extra help liberated by discontinuing common looms would naturally be absorbed in other departments. A comparison of advantages shows that the successful southern mills really prosper by their greater use of Northrop looms. Southern manufacturers have frankly admitted that they were gratified that northern mills did not so promptly appreciate the advantages of automatic weaving. There are southern mills using the Northrop loom on print cloth, where the weavers are paid 5 1-2 cents per cut of 52 yards, with no extra expense for help to fill bobbins. Some of these mills run 66 hours per week and get over 100 per cent. of production from the looms by letting them run unattended during the noon hour. In one coarse sheeting mill there are 1300 Northrop looms where they have never had more than 56 weavers, and often less.

In some mills that use drop wire warp stop-motions with cotton harness in Northrop looms, they have complained about the extra expense of drawing-in. We now have our steel harness warp stop-motion, which costs no more for drawing-in, so perfected that it is applicable to nearly every grade of weaving which we supply looms for; but even with the drop-wire style, the drawing-in expense is apparently obviated to a great extent by the use of a new warp tying-in machine, which is apparently very successful, so far as now used. With this machine there is no more expense in tying-in warp with drop wire warp stop-motions than with no warp stop-motion at all. We have no interest in or association with this machine, but simply mention it as a very interesting device well worthy of attention.

Green help learn to run Northrop looms with surprising quickness. A Southern example was heard from recently, who was given an "acre of looms," as he expressed it, about as soon as he set foot in the mill. When his first warp ran out he called to the fixer: "Hey, mister, come here! the stuff's all come off that ar dam log."

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Our order book shows that we have taken more Northrop loom orders since Jan. 1st than for any similar period since 1900. This is surprising, considering how few new mills are being built. It proves that the old mills are beginning that inevitable and long postponed abandonment of old common looms. When the movement gets fairly started it will develop into a wild scramble for precedence. Our output is necessarily limited and an early order is certainly advisable.

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We show a few more views of our working departments on the next page.

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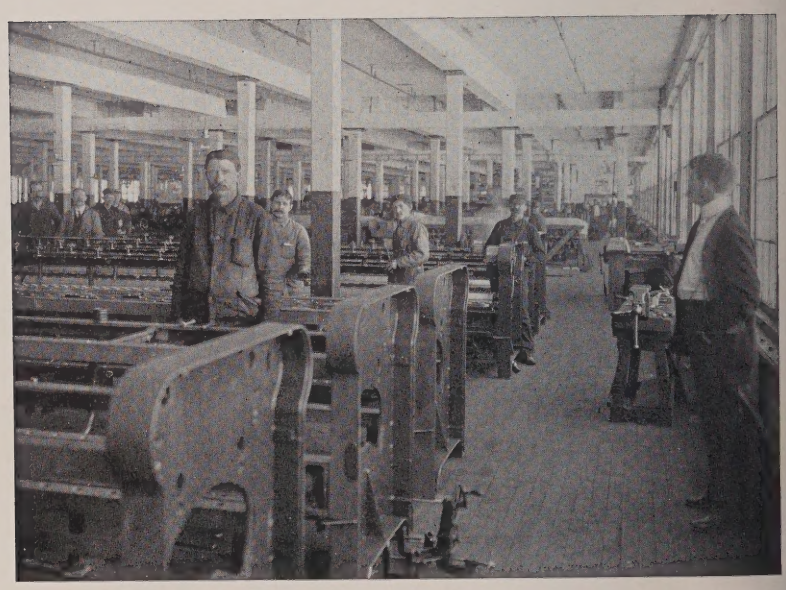
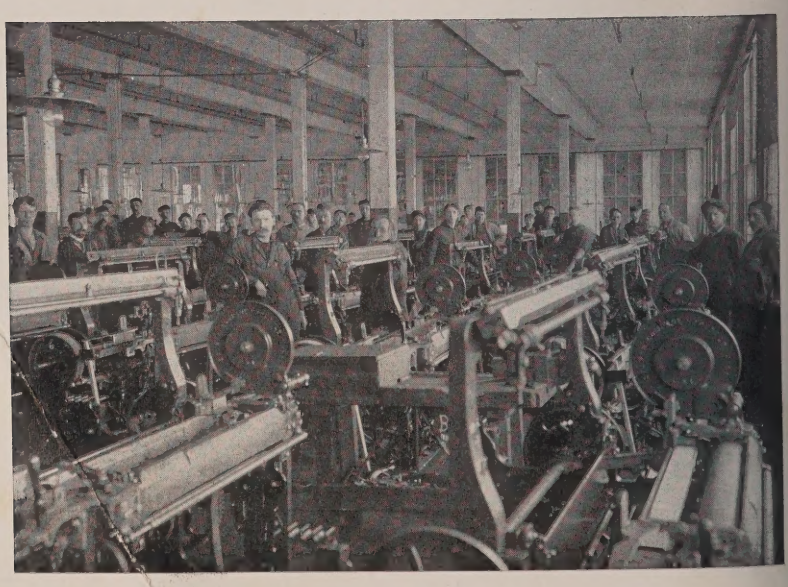
Shuttle Department.



Setting Up Twisters.



Setting Up Looms.